

want gay Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen—together with our loved ones—to have the sort of peace of mind that our straight sisters and brothers take for granted.

Congressman Ackerman, I read on your Web site about how you stood up for Soldiers who were not getting their combat zone tax exemption in Iraq. So I know you are a leader who believes in taking care of the troops. Sir, I believe that now is the time to give troops like me relief from the injustice of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” If and when this issue comes up for debate, and even for a vote, in Congress, I respectfully ask you to remember all the gay military personnel who are right now risking our lives to defend the United States and its values. If you have any questions or comments about anything I have written, you may contact me via e-mail. And please feel free to share this letter and its enclosures, including my contact information, with any individuals or organizations whom you deem appropriate.

Sincerely, ———.

CONGRATULATING NASCENT SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED ON ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nascent Solutions, Incorporated on its fifth anniversary. Nascent Solutions is a humanitarian and development organization headquartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia which benefits several impoverished African countries.

Founded in 2004 by Dr. Beatrice Wamey in Fairfax Station, VA, Nascent Solutions has grown over the past 5 years with the help of donations and partnerships with other international and faith-based organizations. Now registered as a Public Volunteer Organization with the United States Agency for International Development, this organization is devoted to building the capacity for the poor in rural Africa to achieve self-sufficiency and assume total responsibility for their well-being.

Among the organization’s primary objectives are care for orphans and vulnerable children, literacy and skills development, basic health and child care, agricultural development and food security, and protection of the rights of women and children. This organization empowers young people and women in underprivileged African environments by providing resources and skills development programs that would have otherwise been absent from their lives. Through these efforts, Nascent Solutions effectively responds to the immediate needs of the people and encourages them to recognize and strive to work towards their potential.

Over the past 5 years, Nascent Solutions has been able to respond to natural disasters with relief efforts, provide food and clothing to underprivileged children, improve the health of the African people through agricultural development, promote and expand civil rights, and improve the education system. This organization models the selflessness and concern for humanity for which we all strive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the vision and dedication of those individuals who have worked to create

an organization so committed to international development. I wish Nascent Solutions continued success in its work to provide help and hope to those who so desperately need it.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the National Museum of American Jewish History.

Originally established in 1976, the National Museum of American Jewish History is the only museum in our great Nation which has devoted itself fully to the preservation and exploration of the American Jewish experience. This important museum was founded by the Congregation Mikveh Israel, one of the oldest synagogues in the United States. Established in 1740 as the “Synagogue of the American Revolution,” the Congregation Mikveh Israel stands for values and ideals which all Americans share.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is a vibrant component in the cultural life of Philadelphia. Through its lectures, panel discussions, authors’ talks, films, children’s activities, theater, and music, this museum educates us all about the rich cultural heritage of Judaism in America. It has an impressive record of preservation, conservation and collections management and is the largest repository of Jewish Americana in the world, with more than 25,000 objects.

Honoring and remembering the American Jewish experience is crucial to a deeper understanding of our values as Americans. Located at the birthplace of American liberty, this institution represents our freedoms, the same freedoms that have made it possible for Jewish Americans to flourish.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to offer my ongoing support for the National Museum of American Jewish History and for its project of preserving the material culture of Jewish Americans. It is my belief that we must recognize the great efforts of this institution to educate Americans about this important piece of our shared history.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSA ATKINS

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Dr. Rosa Atkins, who was named Virginia’s Superintendent of the Year on May 20, 2010. Last October, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan attended a roundtable discussion at Greenbrier Elementary—our Blue Ribbon school—with area school superintendents. In that meeting, Secretary Duncan saw in Rosa Atkins what we see every day, and what the Virginia Association of School Superintendents recognized with this award—an educator fiercely determined to lift all of her students.

It is a task worthy of Hercules, but she accomplishes it with grace and seemingly with ease.

But we know closing the achievement gap is not easy. It is especially difficult in tough economic times. But Dr. Atkins has tenaciously persevered and the results are remarkable—and ongoing.

You would be hard pressed to identify a single job more important to a community than school superintendent, and you would be hard pressed to identify a single individual better suited to that job than Dr. Rosa Atkins. On behalf of Virginia’s 5th District, I offer my deepest appreciation for her service to our students.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JEFF THEERMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jeff Theerman, Executive Director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, MSD, on his election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Theerman is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward. He has dedicated his career to the improvement of the environment and public health in Missouri, and throughout the Nation. Without a doubt, he is ideally suited for this national leadership position with NACWA.

Mr. Theerman has served Missouri through his work at MSD for over 25 years. In October of 2003 he was named MSD’s executive director, willingly and ably accepting accountability for all aspects of the utility’s operations.

As MSD’s executive director, Mr. Theerman leads one of the Nation’s largest wastewater and stormwater management utilities, providing services to approximately 1.4 million people in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County. Under his leadership the MSD currently operates seven wastewater treatment facilities, treating an average of 330 million gallons of water per day and maintaining 9,649 miles of sewers.

Since joining others in founding NACWA 40 years ago, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District has benefitted from his active engagement with the organization. A member of NACWA’s board of directors since 2004, Mr. Theerman has served as the organization’s secretary, treasurer and vice president. It is fitting that his election as president coincides with the 40th anniversary of NACWA’s advocacy on behalf of the Nation’s clean water agencies—and the environment we all value so much.

When I hear terms like “accountable” and “responsive,” I think of public servants like Mr. Theerman. Under his able leadership NACWA looks forward to proactively and effectively addressing the complex 21st century water quality challenges we face as a Nation.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Jeff Theerman on becoming president of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for St. Louis, Missouri, and the Nation.